

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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MAAG ROME

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OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH LONDON BRANCH OFFICE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2601

E.O. 11652: GDS12-31-80

TAGS: MASS, ESTC, NATO

SUBJECT: REPORT OF MAY 1974 MEETING OF NATO MARITIME PATROL

AIRCRAFT STEERING COMMITTEE (NMPASC)

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD(I&L); CNO FOR OP-098;

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REF: A. USNATO 2030(121545A APR 74)

B. STATE 080257(192139Z APR 74) (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS OF
NMPASC MEETING IN PARIS ON 9 MAY, 1974:

1. LAST ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT TO BE DELIVERED IN JULY, 1974
2. FRG/France/ROLLS-ROYCE CONTRACT DISCUSSION AT A STALE-
MATE. IT ALSO PRESENTS MISSION COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

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US WITHDRAWAL FROM NMPA PROGRAM. ACTION REQUIRED. CONCURRENCE
IN MISSION RECOMMENDATION IN TIME FOR NEXT NMPASC MEETING
JUNE 9, 1974, OR COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE NMPASC WAS HELD IN PARIS ON MAY9, 1974. ALL MEMBER NATIONS(BELGIUM, FRANCE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS AND US) WERE REPRESENTED. US WAS REPRESENTED BY CAPTAIN CHISUM(USNATO). ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

2. ATLANTIC AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION WILL STOP WHEN AIRCRAFT 87 IS DELIVERED TO ITALY IN JULY 1974. NO COUNTRY HAS ORDERED ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AND NONE IS EXPECTED TO DO SO.

3. PROTRACTED DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FRG/FRENCH/ROLLS-ROYCE PROPELLER CONTRACT(SEE REF A, PARA 3) ENDED IN A STALEMATE.

A. IN RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN'S QUERY ABOUT PROVIDING MEMBER FOR AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE FRG POSITION VIS-A-VIS TO THE CONTRACT, ITALY INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE MEMBER, NETHERLANDS DECLINED TO COMMENT, AND US, PER REF B, SAID THAT THE US WOULD NOT PROVIDE A MEMBER.

B. THE FRG DELEGATE INTERJECTED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN REACTION TO THE CHAIRMANS QUERY ABOUT AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP QUOTE: NO PROPOSAL TO REVIEW THE GERMAN DECISION NOT TO PAY INCREASED PRICES TO ROLLS-ROYCE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. THE DECISION (NOT TO PAY THE INCREASED PRICE) TAKEN BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE QUESTIONED AS TO ITS CORRECTNESS BY ANY REVIEW GROUP UNQUOTE.

C. THE MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT THE NEXT NMPASC MEETING.

4. MISSION COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION ABOUT CONTINUED US PARTICIPATION IN NMPASC.

A. AFTER THE LAST ATLANTIC HAS BEEN DELIVERED, THE NMPASC WILL CONCENTRATE PRIMARILY ON SOLVING TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND ON SETTLING LINGERING LABOR AND CONTRACT DISPUTES AMONG THE SEVERAL PARTICIPATING NATIONS. IN RECOGNITION OF THE REDUCED EFFORTS THE NMPASC HAS AGREED TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS FROM MONTHLY TO BI-MONTHLY UPON DELIVERY OF THE LAST ATLANTIC. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE MOU, CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONS PROVIDE A CHAIRMAN FOR A SIX MONTH TENURE ON A ROTATING BASIS. THW US TERM COMMENCES IN JULY, -1974. THE TIME SEEMS RIGHT FOR THE US TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM THE NMPA PROGRAM. MISSION FINDS NO RATIONALE TO SUPPORT US PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM AFTER THE DELIVERY OF THE LAST ATLANTIC.

B. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US WITHDRAW FROM THE NMPA PROGRAM WHEN THE LAST ATLANTIC IS DELIVERED--WHETHER THIS IS IN JULY, 1974, OR LATER.

C. REQUEST CONCURRENCE IN TIME TO ADVISE NMPASC AT THE NEXT MEETING JUNE 13. RUMSFELD

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